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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Regional Meeting for Latin America
and the Caribbean
San José, Costa Rica
18-22 January 1993

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Prepared by the Secretary-General of the
World Conference on Human Rights

Item 1. Opening of the Regional Meeting

1. The Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean will be opened by the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Human Rights, the President of Costa Rica and the Executive Secretary of ECLAC. The session is scheduled to be held in San José from 18 to 22 January 1993. It may be recalled that the General Assembly, in paragraph 4 (d) of its resolution 46/116, decided that, in accordance with the objectives and provisions of its resolution 45/155, regional meetings should be convened for each region that so desired within the institutional framework or with the assistance of the regional commissions and that those meetings should be financed as part of the preparatory work for the World Conference, as recommended by the Commission on Human Rights in paragraph 8 of the annex to its resolution 1991/30. Subsequent to the adoption of this resolution, the Secretary-General of the Conference was notified of the desire of the Latin American and Caribbean Group to hold a regional preparatory meeting for the World Conference on Human Rights. Subsequently, the Government of Costa Rica graciously offered to host this regional meeting in San José from 18 to 22 January 1993.

Item 2. Election of the Chairman and other officers

2. In accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as adapted to the particular requirements of the Regional Meeting, the session is called upon to elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda and the rules of procedure

3. The provisional agenda, drawn up by the Secretary-General of the Conference, is based on the recommendations of the Latin American and Caribbean Group and the host country, and is contained in document A/CONF.157/LACRM/1.

4. At its third session, the Preparatory Committee agreed to adopt for the regional meetings the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind decision PC.3/2, adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its third session, concerning the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations at regional meetings, such participation to include:

(a) Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council which are active in the field of human rights and/or development as well as in the concerned region;

(b) Other non-governmental organizations which are active in the field of human rights and/or development, and have their headquarters in the concerned region, in prior consultations with the countries of the region;

which designate representatives properly accredited by them to participate as observers in the regional meeting.

In accordance with these rules, the Regional Meeting is called upon to formally adopt the rules of procedure.

Item 4. Appointment of the Credentials Committee

5. A Credentials Committee shall be appointed at the beginning of the session. It shall consist of four members, who shall be appointed by the Plenary, on the recommendation of the General Committee. The Credentials Committee shall elect its own officers. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Plenary.

Item 5. Organization of work

6. A provisional programme of work will be drawn up by the General Committee in accordance with established practice at United Nations meetings.

7. In view of the limited time available, the Meeting may wish to establish time-limits on the length of statements. The Meeting may also wish to encourage joint statements, to the extent possible, as well as statements addressing more than one item on the agenda.

8. The Meeting may wish to consider the need to transform the plenary session into a Main Committee to examine specific agenda items.

Item 6. Commemoration of the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples

9. This agenda item is part of the inaugural ceremony and is intended to honour, in particular, the indigenous peoples of America. In this connection Ms. Rigoberta Menchu, who received the 1992 Nobel Prize for Peace, has been invited to this meeting.

Item 7. Evaluation of the results achieved in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, with emphasis on the implementation of the relevant human rights standards and instruments and on the effectiveness of international and regional methods and procedures

10. This agenda item could take into account the current state of implementation or formulation of international instruments on the human rights of women, children, migrant workers and their families, indigenous peoples, refugees, displaced persons and other vulnerable groups. In addition, it could evaluate the advisory services provided by the Centre for Human Rights, the strengthening of national human rights institutions and better coordination between the various United Nations bodies and agencies concerned with instruction and training in human rights.

11. As regards evaluation of the results achieved in the promotion and protection of human rights on the regional level, the Meeting may wish to address the question of ratification of or accession to international and regional human rights instruments. The role of Governments in strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights through, inter alia, national institutions, ombudsmen or presidential advisers on human rights could also be considered. The role of non-governmental organizations in promoting and protecting human rights could also be examined.

12. The attention of the Meeting is drawn to the following documents:

Updated report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (E/CN.4/1991/23 and Add.1);

Report of the International Workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Paris, 7-9 October 1991 (E/CN.4/1992/43 and Add.1).

The relevant Fact Sheets and publications of the Centre for Human Rights will also be available.

13. As regards the status of ratifications/accessions of Latin American and Caribbean States to international human rights instruments, the attention of the Meeting is drawn to the following documents:

Status of international and regional human rights instruments as of 15 December 1992: note by the Secretariat (A/CONF.157/LACRM/2).

14. With regard to the evaluation of the effectiveness of United Nations and regional human rights procedures, the objective outlined in paragraph 1 (d) of the above-mentioned resolution, the Meeting will have before it the following documents, some of which were presented at satellite meetings:

Reform of the international institutions for the protection of human rights: paper presented by Mr. Jean Marie Becet and Mr. Karel Vasak to the First International Colloquium on Human Rights, La Laguna (Tenerife), 1-4 November 1992 (A/CONF.157/LACRM/3);

Implementation of human rights within the United Nations: paper presented by Mr. Félix Ermacora to the First International Colloquium on Human Rights, La Laguna (Tenerife), 1-4 November 1992 (A/CONF.157/LACRM/4);

Note by the Secretary-General, transmitting a report by Mr. Philip Alston on the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights (A/44/668);

Note by the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the 4th meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies on the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights (A/47/628);

Compilation of general comments and general recommendations adopted by human rights treaty bodies (HRI/GEN/1);

Achievements and problems of the inter-American human rights system: paper prepared by Mr. Marco Tulio Bruni Celli, President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, for the Conference on Regional Systems of Human Rights Protection in Africa, America and Europe (Strasbourg, 15-19 June 1992) (A/CONF.157/LACRM/5).

Item 8. Identification of obstacles to the full realization of human rights

15. The main element of this agenda item is intended to identify obstacles to the full realization of human rights, including the effects of poverty, underprivileged status and violence on the full enjoyment of human rights, effectiveness of the administration of justice, the relationship between levels of economic development, budgets and the real abilities of States to allocate sufficient resources to support the administration of justice in a manner guaranteeing human rights, summary of conclusions arrived at in different bodies and documents relating to the enjoyment of the right to development, the effects of economic adjustment policies and international factors, including external debt, on the enjoyment of all human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights.

16. In addition, under this item, the Meeting could examine the importance of the non-enjoyment of the right to development as an obstacle to the full realization of human rights. The effects of drug trafficking and terrorism,

the violation of human rights of women, as well as the problems arising from the sale of children and other obstacles that could be examined under this agenda item.

Item 9. Consideration of the relationship between development, democracy and the universal enjoyment of all human rights, keeping in view the interdependence and indivisibility of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights

17. This agenda item is linked to the objective outlined in paragraph 1 (b) of General Assembly resolution 45/155. The Meeting could examine the relationship between development, democracy and the universal enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, and the importance of bringing about conditions conducive to the full enjoyment by all mankind of these rights in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. The attention of the Meeting is drawn to the following documents:

Report on the Global Consultation on the Right to Development as a Human Right prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/45 (E/CN.4/1990/9/Rev.1);

Final report prepared by Mr. Danilo Türk, Special Rapporteur, on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/16);

Statement to the World Conference on Human Rights on behalf of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/1992/CRP.2/Add.1);

Statement submitted by the International Monetary Fund to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/63);

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and extreme poverty (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/38 and Add.1).

Item 10. Consideration, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of contemporary trends in and new challenges to the full realization of human rights, particularly those of persons belonging to vulnerable groups

18. An important element of this agenda item is the consideration, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of contemporary trends in and new challenges to the full realization of human rights including new forms of racism and xenophobia. The attention of the Meeting, in this context, is drawn to the human rights of vulnerable groups, children, minorities, indigenous peoples, refugees and displaced persons, migrant workers and handicapped and disabled persons.

19. The Meeting will have before it the following documents:

Report of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations on its tenth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/33);

Report of Mr. Asbjörn Eide on possible ways and means of facilitating the peaceful and constructive solution of problems involving minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/37);

Declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

Ethno-nationalism and minority protection: the need for institutional reforms: paper presented by Mr. Asbjörn Eide to the First International Colloquium on Human Rights, La Laguna (Ténérife), 1-4 November 1992 (A/CONF.157/LACRM/6);

Report of Mr. Leandro Despouy, Special Rapporteur, on human rights and disability (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/31);

Report of Mr. Murlidhar Bhandare on the interrelationship between human rights and peace (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/32 and Corr.1);

Study of the problem of discrimination against indigenous populations, by José R. Martínez Cobo, Special Rapporteur, vol. V: Conclusions, proposals and recommendations (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1986/7/Add.4);

Report of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations on its tenth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/33);

Final report prepared by Mr. Varela Quiros, Special Rapporteur, on discrimination against HIV-infected people or people with AIDS (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/10);

Report on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, submitted by Mr. Enrique Bernales Ballesteros (Peru), Special Rapporteur, pursuant to Commission resolution 1991/7 (E/CN.4/1992/12).

20. In addition, the Meeting will have before it the relevant Fact Sheets published by the Centre for Human Rights as well as the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace. Preventive Diplomacy, Peacemaking and Peace-keeping" (A/47/277-S/2411; also published under symbol DPI 1247).

Item 11. <u>Recommendations to ensure the effective enjoyment of all human rights and to improve the coordination of the mechanisms of the United Nations and the regional systems, as well as the relationship between them, as appropriate</u>

21. Under this item, the Meeting is expected to formulate recommendations to ensure the effective enjoyment of all human rights, and to improve the coordination of the mechanisms of the United Nations and the regional system.

22. The Meeting will have before it the following documents which contain recommendations in these areas:

La Laguna Declaration, adopted by the First International Colloquium on Human Rights, La Laguna (Tenerife), 1-4 November 1992 (A/CONF.157/LACRM/7);

Recommendations to the World Conference on Human Rights adopted at the Fifth Human Rights Conference of the International Academy for Development in Freedom, Sintra (Portugal), 18-23 November 1992 (A/CONF.157/LACRM/8);

Analysis of the causes of refugee movements and other forms of forced emigration in South America - New strategies in international cooperation: report submitted by Mr. Leandro Despouy (A/CONF.157/LACRM/9).

23. In addition, the meeting will have before it the relevant Fact Sheets published by the Centre for Human Rights.

Item 12. Recommendations to ensure the necessary technical and financial cooperation for the strengthening of the promotion and protection of human rights

24. An important element of this agenda item is the consideration of recommendations to ensure the technical and financial resources of the United Nations in order to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights as one of the future priorities of the United Nations system. In this context, the attention of the Meeting is drawn to the section entitled "Securing financial stability" of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the organization for 1992 (A/47/1, chap. II, sect. D). The importance of international cooperation in all areas where support is needed for national efforts to bring about the full enjoyment of all human rights is also relevant.

Item 13. Adoption of the final documents and/or declaration of the Regional Meeting.

25. At the conclusion of its session, the Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean will adopt a report to be submitted to the World Conference, through the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/116.